



SHER SHAH

ABLE STATESMAN, BRAVE WARRIOR

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SHER SHAH

FARID, WHO LATER EARNED THE TITLE OF SHER SHAH, AND BECAME ONE OF THE GREATEST RULERS OF MEDIEVAL INDIA, WAS THE SON OF HASAN, AN AFGHAN ESTATE OWNER OF SASARAM.



HASAN HAD CAST ASIDE HIS AFGHAN WIFE, AND HAD MARRIED A BEAUTIFUL BUT WICKED YOUNG WOMAN, WHO HATED FARID AND HIS BROTHER NIZAM.

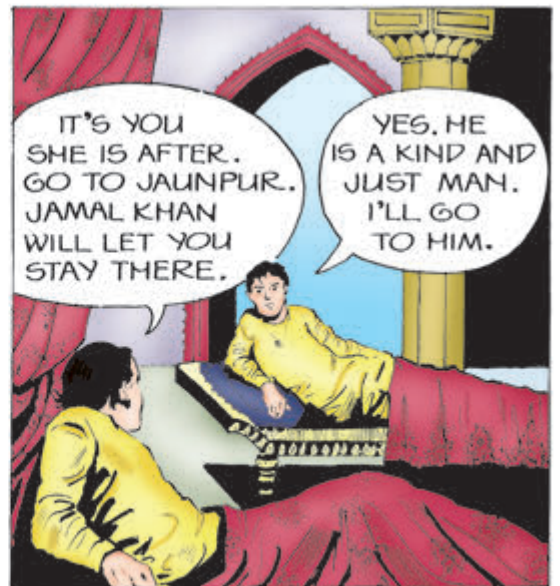
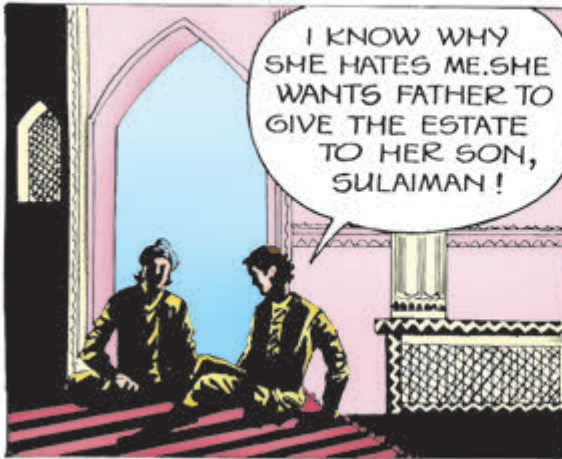


FARID TOO DISLIKED HIS STEP-MOTHER.



NIZAM OFTEN HAD TO WATCH HELP-LESSLY THE ILL-TREATMENT METED OUT TO HIS ELDER BROTHER, FARID.

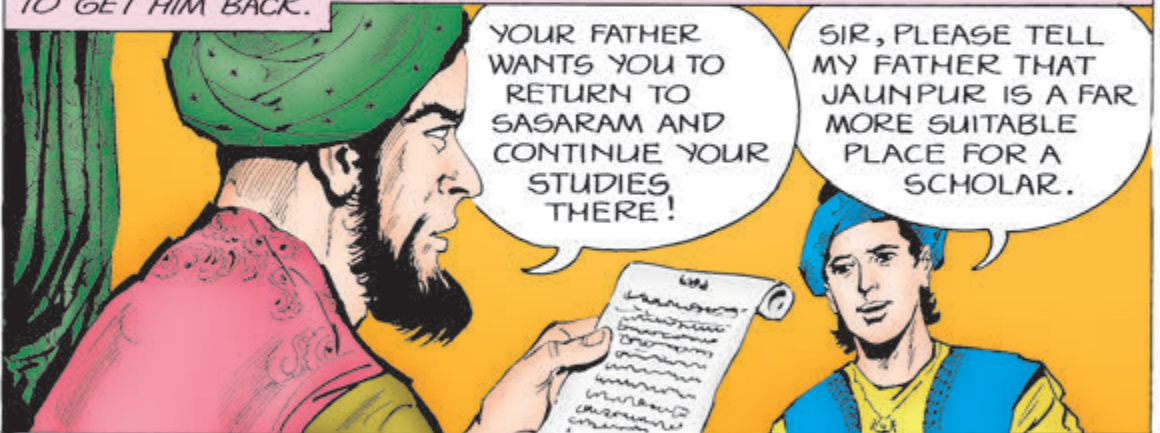




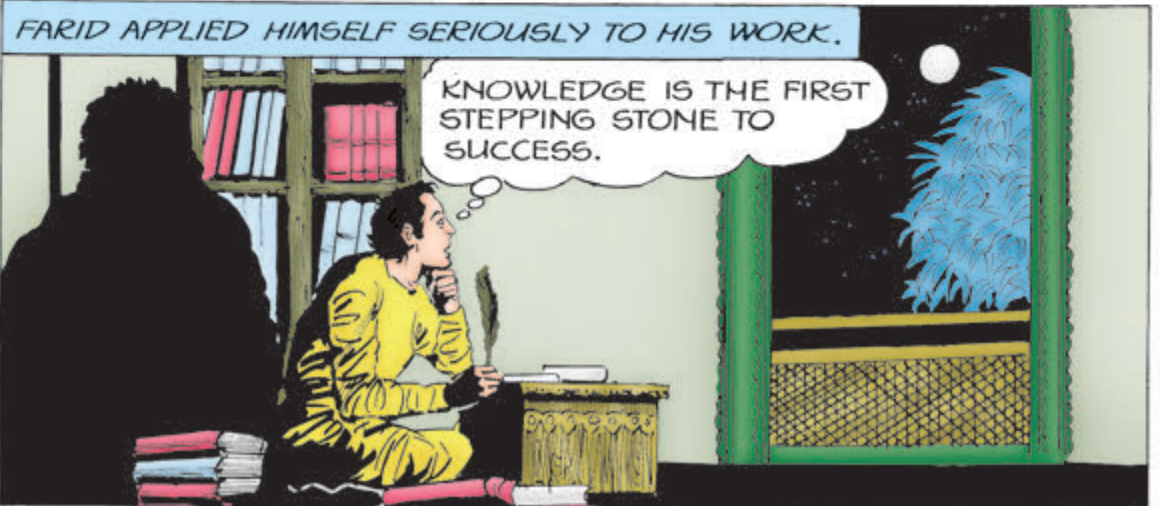
FARID WAS FIFTEEN YEARS OLD WHEN HE CAME TO JAMAL KHAN, THE GOVERNOR OF JAUNPUR.



LATER, WHEN HASAN LEARNT OF FARID'S WHEREABOUTS, HE TRIED TO GET HIM BACK.



FARID APPLIED HIMSELF SERIOUSLY TO HIS WORK.



HE MEMORISED SEVERAL ARABIC CLASSICS. THEN—

NOW I SHALL TAKE UP THE STUDY OF STATECRAFT.



THERE THE SYSTEMS OF LAND REVENUE INTERESTED HIM MOST.

THE POOR PEASANTS TOIL BUT DO NOT ENJOY THE FRUITS OF THEIR LABOUR.



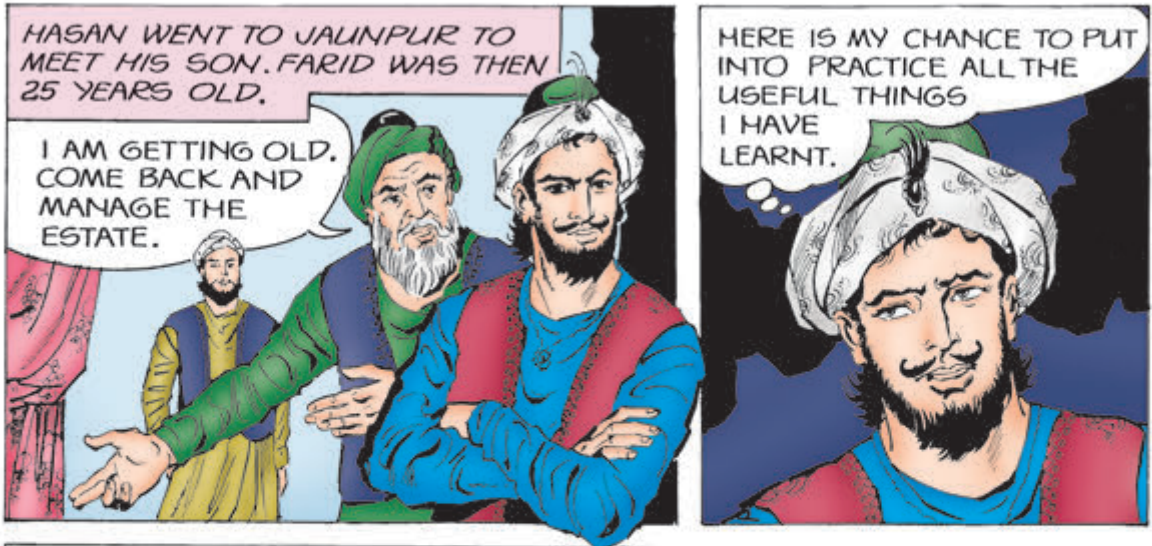
IF I EVER GET THE OPPORTUNITY I WILL CHANGE ALL THAT.



THE OPPORTUNITY CAME WHEN HASAN REPENTED.

I HAVE LET MY WIFE INFLUENCE ME. I HAVE BEEN UNJUST TO A SON WHOSE ABILITIES ARE UNCOMMON.



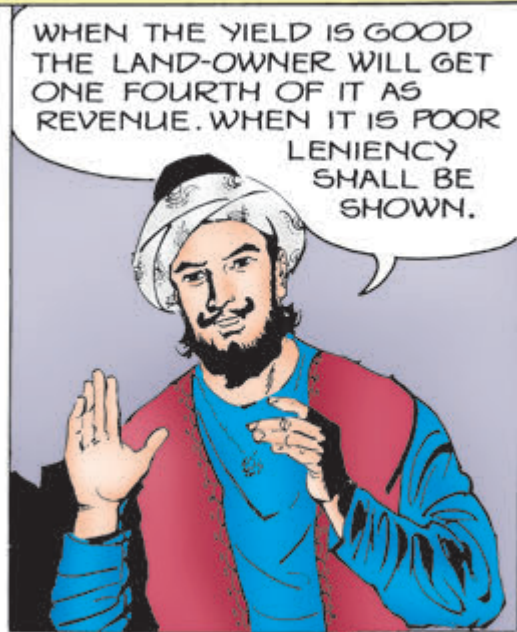




HE INTRODUCED A NEW SYSTEM OF TAXATION.



THE LAND SHALL
FIRST BE
MEASURED
AND THE
TAX FIXED
ACCORDINGLY.



WHEN THE YIELD IS GOOD
THE LAND-OWNER WILL GET
ONE FOURTH OF IT AS
REVENUE. WHEN IT IS POOR
LENIENCY
SHALL BE
SHOWN.

BUT THE OPPRESSORS
RESENTED THE NEW SYSTEM.
THEY RESISTED.



THIS
YOUNG MAN IS
A FOOL. LET'S
IGNORE HIM.



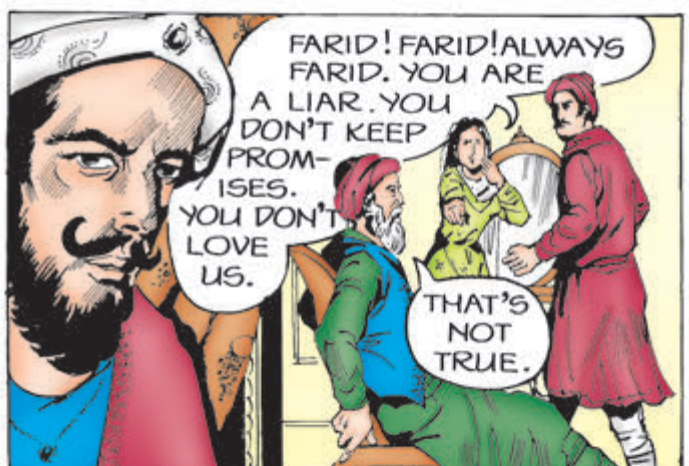
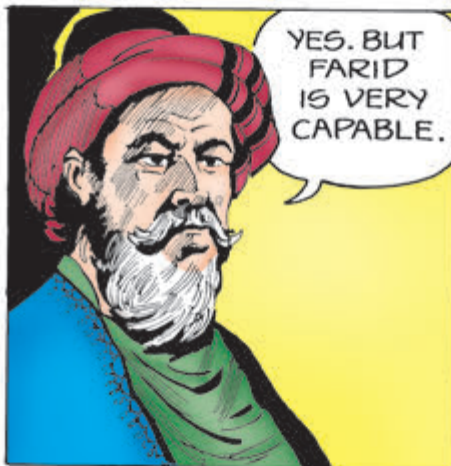
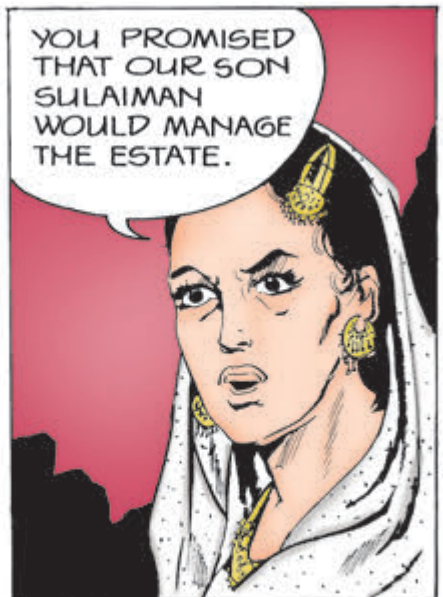
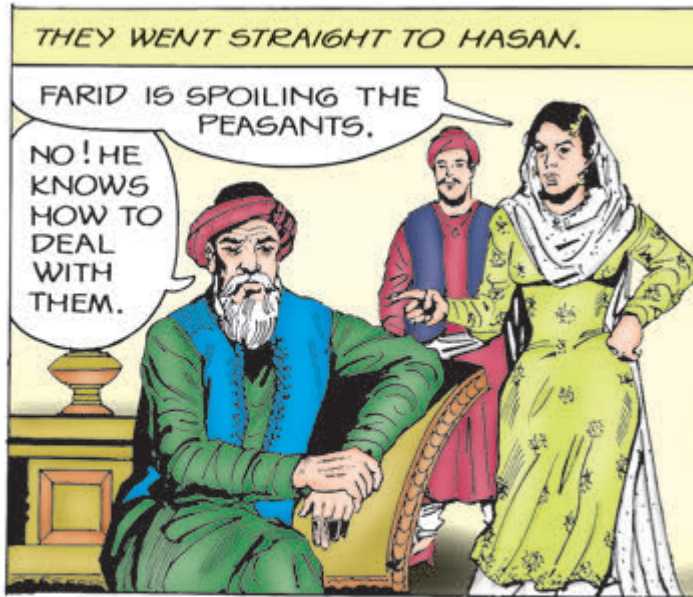
IF WE DON'T EXACT
MAXIMUM TAXES
WHAT WILL WE LIVE
ON? LET'S LEAVE
THIS POINTLESS
MEETING.



HE COLLECTED A SMALL BAND OF SUPPORTERS AND SWOOPED DOWN AT NIGHT ON THE VILLAGES BELONGING TO THE OFFENDERS.









THE UTTERLY DISGUSTED FARID THIS TIME DECIDED TO APPROACH BIHAR KHAN WHOSE DOMAIN EXTENDED FROM JAUNPUR TO BIHAR.



BIHAR KHAN WAS ONLY TOO PLEASED TO ENGAGE FARID WHOSE FAME AS AN ABLE ADMINISTRATOR HAD SPREAD.



IN TIME FARID BECAME BIHAR KHAN'S MOST TRUSTED FRIEND, AND OFTEN JOINED HIM ON THE HUNT.

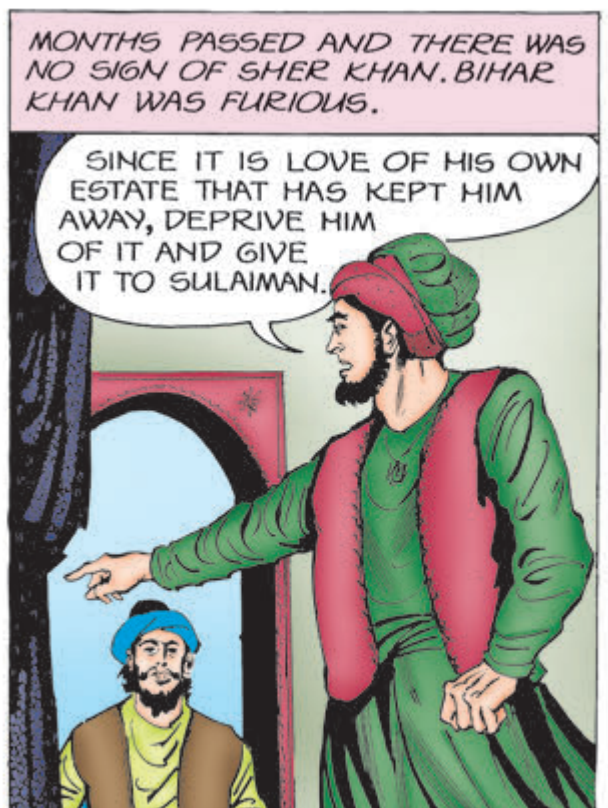


THE GAME THAT DAY WAS A TIGER.

AH,! THERE HE IS. CAN YOU SEE HIM?

LET ME KILL HIM, SIR.





ONCE MORE THE ESTATE SLIPPED OUT OF SHER KHAN'S HANDS. NIZAM HAD A SUGGESTION.

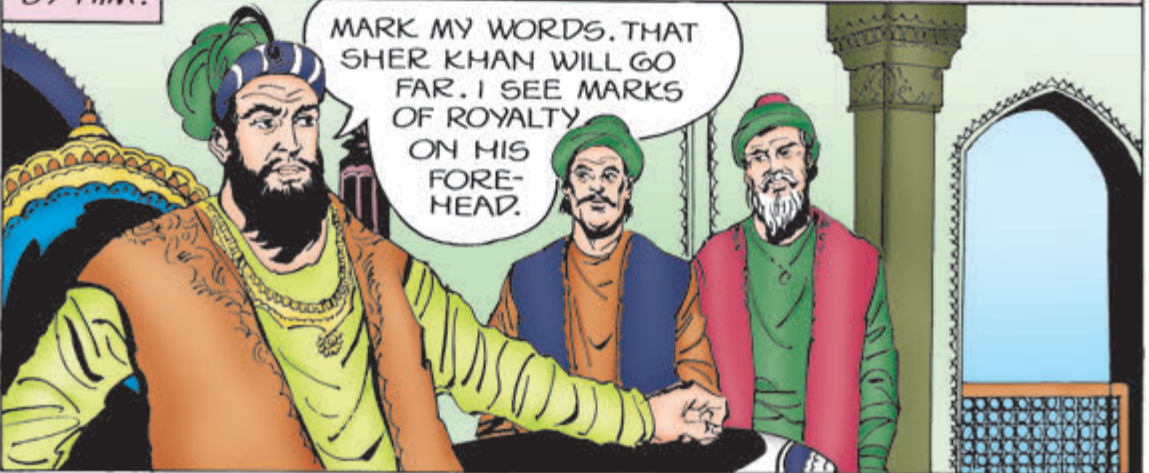
WHY DON'T YOU ENTER THE SERVICE OF KING BABAR? HE MAY HELP YOU WIN BACK YOUR ESTATE.

A GOOD IDEA, NIZAM, A VERY GOOD IDEA.



SO SHER KHAN JOINED BABAR, WHO WAS GREATLY IMPRESSED BY HIM.

MARK MY WORDS. THAT SHER KHAN WILL GO FAR. I SEE MARKS OF ROYALTY ON HIS FOREHEAD.



EARNING BABAR'S CONFIDENCE, SHER KHAN SOUGHT HIS HELP TO WIN BACK HIS ESTATE. BUT—

I CANNOT HELP YOU IMMEDIATELY, SHER KHAN. OUR POSITION AT THE MOMENT IS CRITICAL.



FIFTEEN MONTHS LATER, HOWEVER, DURING ONE OF BABAR'S CAMPAIGNS, THE ESTATE ONCE AGAIN FELL INTO SHER KHAN'S HANDS.

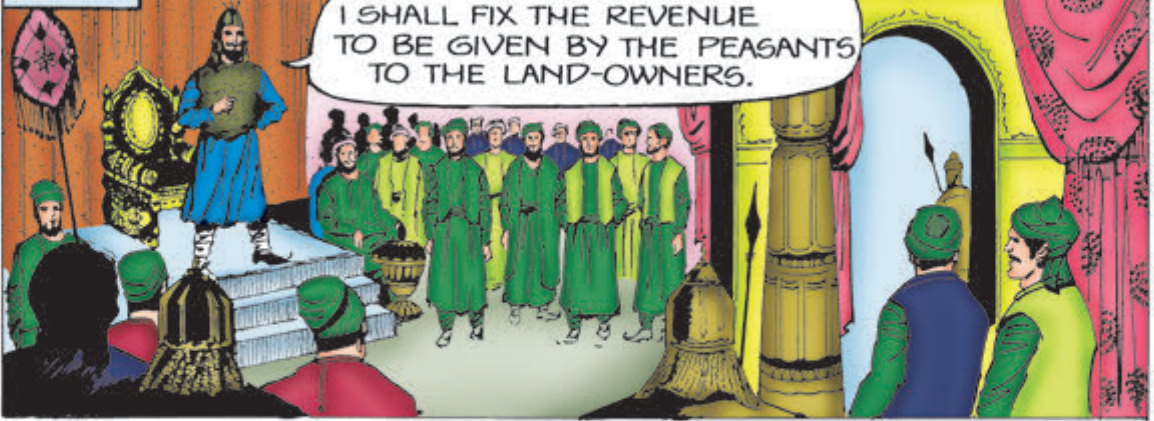
MY LAND! IT'S MINE AT LAST.





HIS REFORMS IN LAND REVENUE WERE INTRODUCED THROUGHOUT BIHAR.

I SHALL FIX THE REVENUE TO BE GIVEN BY THE PEASANTS TO THE LAND-OWNERS.



HE TOOK NO CHANCES WITH HIS PERSONAL SAFETY.

PICK OUT THE BEST OF OUR MEN TO BE MY BODY-GUARDS.



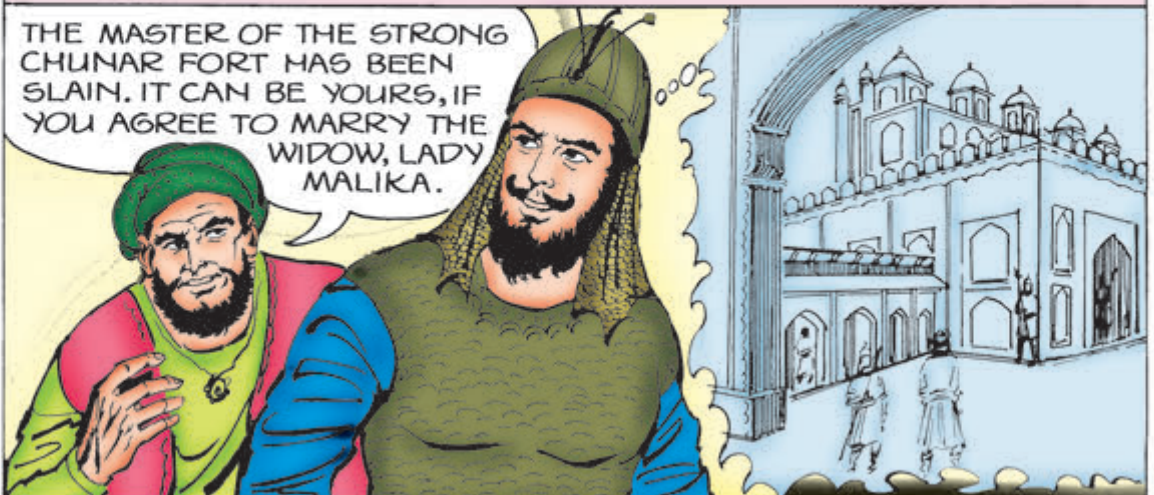
WITH POWER, HIS AMBITION TOO SOARED.

I HAVE THE PEOPLE'S CONFIDENCE. I MUST NOW BECOME THE LEGAL RULER.

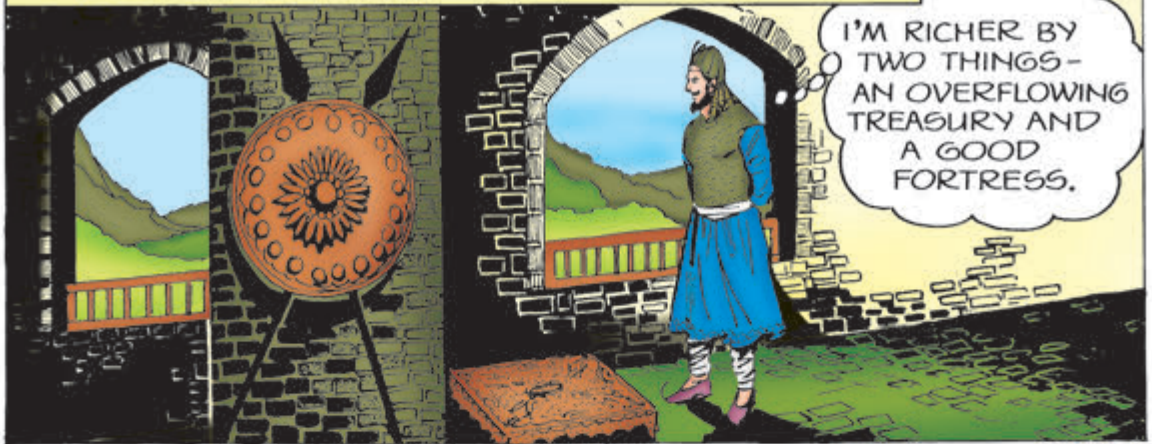


AT ABOUT THAT TIME AN IMPORTANT EVENT TOOK PLACE.

THE MASTER OF THE STRONG CHUNAR FORT HAS BEEN SLAIN. IT CAN BE YOURS, IF YOU AGREE TO MARRY THE WIDOW, LADY MALIKA.



HE AGREED AND THE WEDDING TOOK PLACE IN 1530.

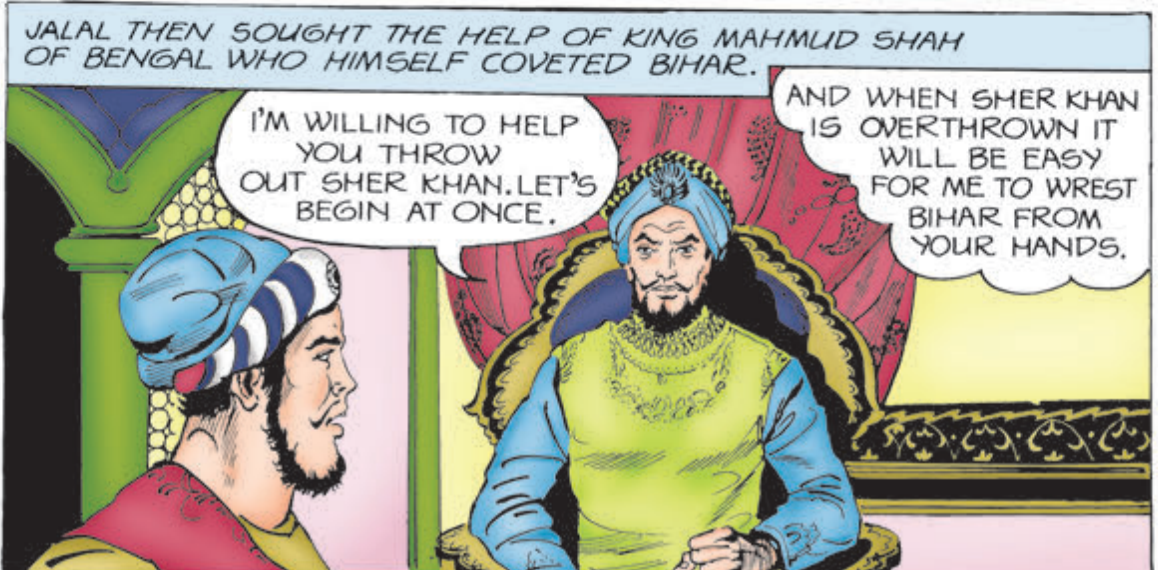
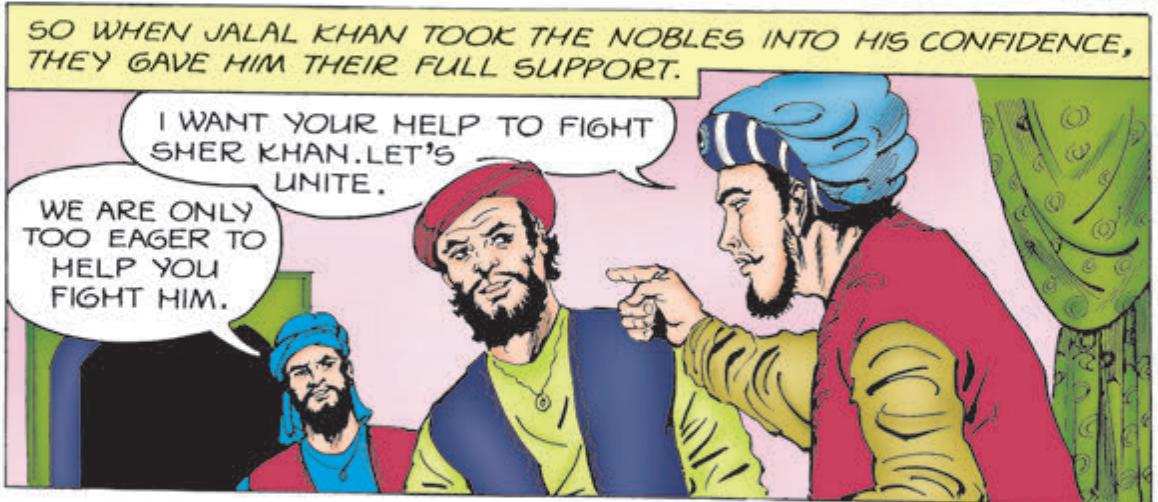
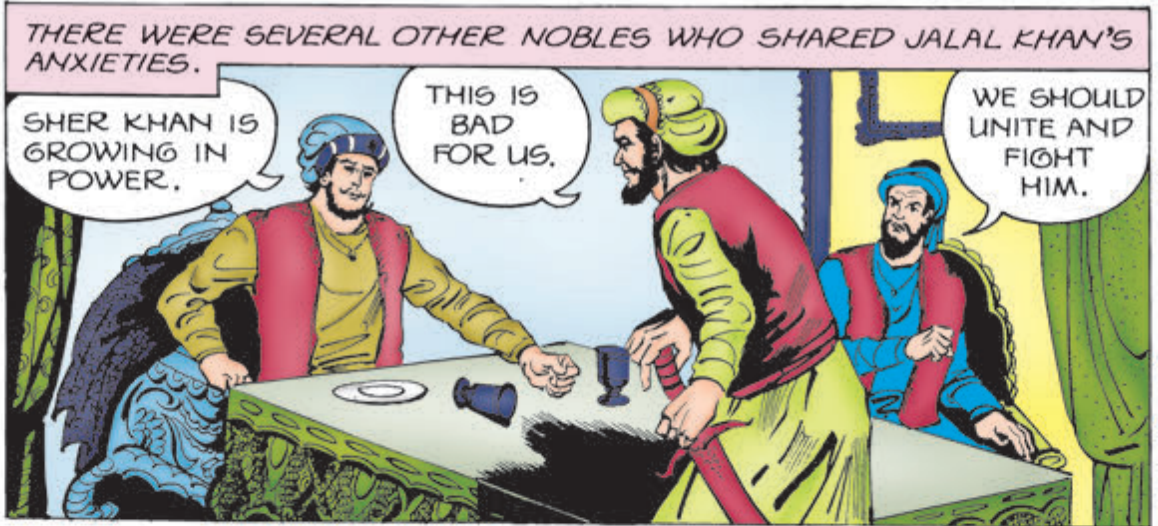


WHILE SHER KHAN SLEPT PEACEFULLY AND DREAMT OF FURTHER CONQUESTS...



...KING JALAL KHAN WAS AWAKE AND TROUBLED.

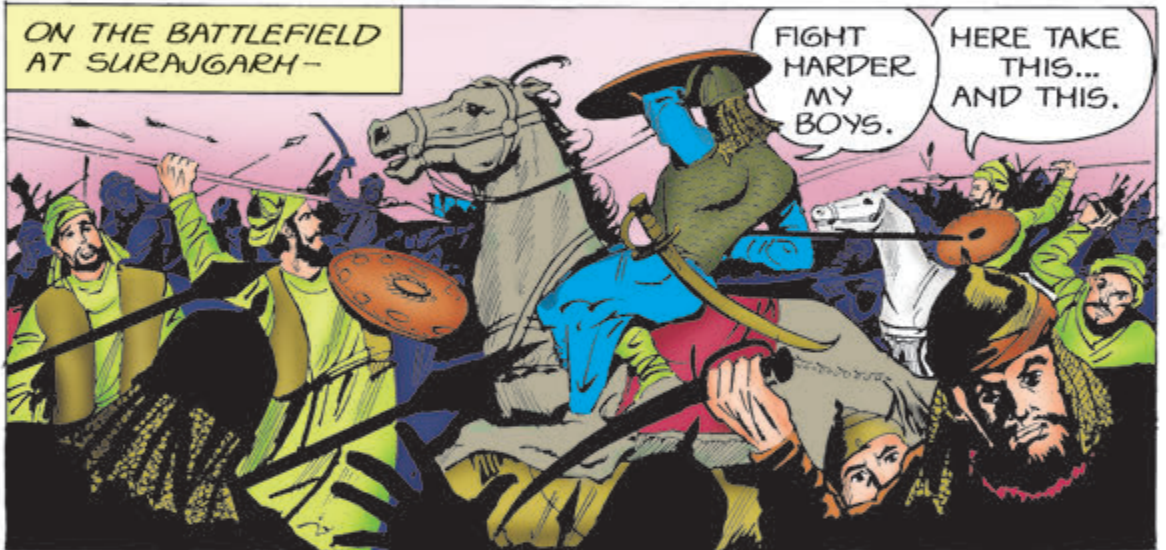




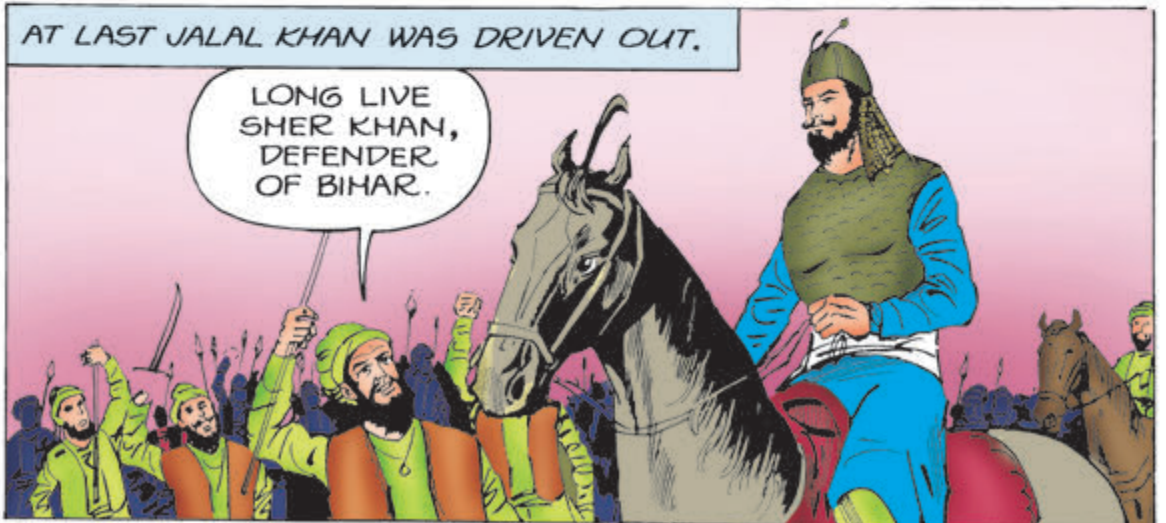
THUS JALAL KHAN WITH MAHMUD SHAH'S HELP INVADED BIHAR. BUT—



ON THE BATTLEFIELD AT SURAJGARH—

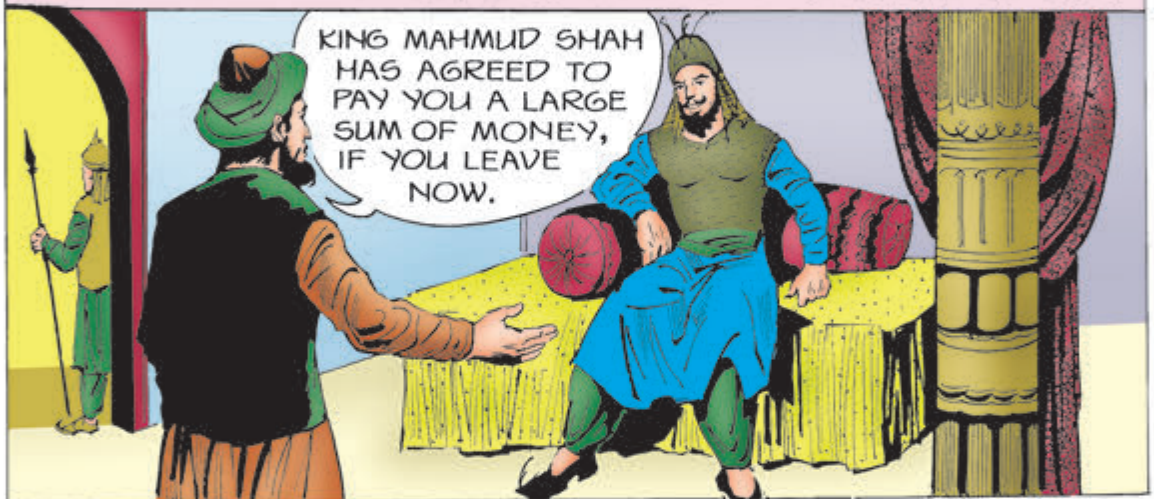


AT LAST JALAL KHAN WAS DRIVEN OUT.

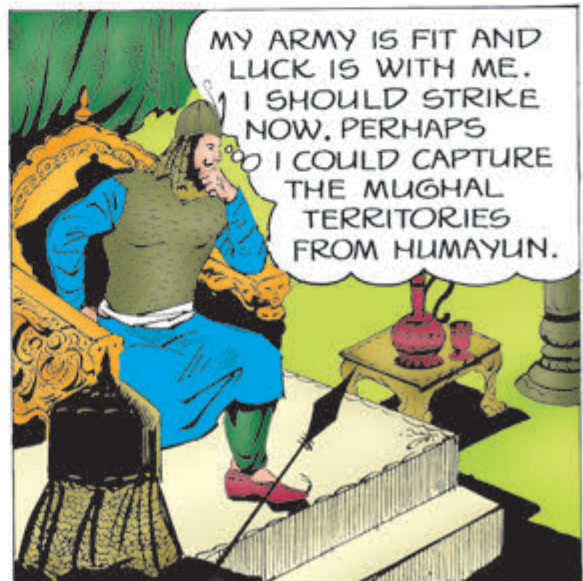




LATER SHER KHAN RELENTLESSLY ATTACKED BENGAL, TILL, FINALLY-



IN 1538 HE CAPTURED GAUR.



SHER KHAN KNEW WHEN TO USE WORDS INSTEAD OF SWORDS.



WHILE HUMAYUN'S ARMY WAS GOING TOWARDS AGRA—



WHILE THE IMPERIAL MUGHAL ARMY WAS SLEEPING PEACEFULLY—



THE MUGHAL ARMY HAD NO TIME TO GET INTO BATTLE ARRAY. THEY RAN HERE AND THERE AS SHER KHAN STRUCK FROM ALL SIDES.

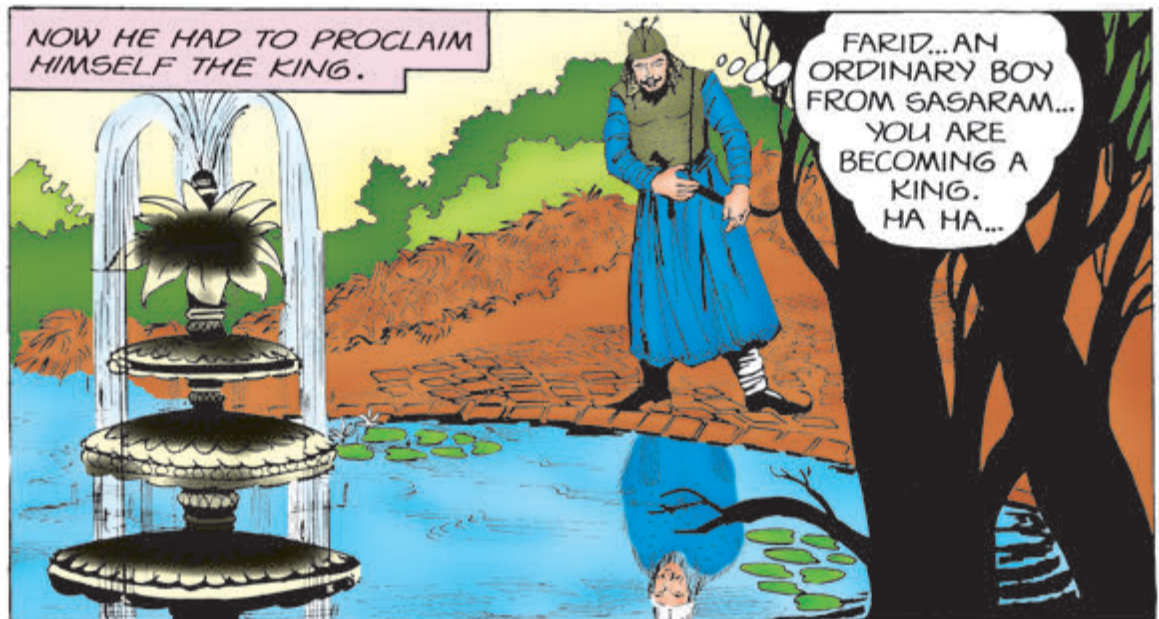




BUT SHER KHAN WAS NOT A MAN TO BE CARRIED AWAY BY SUCCESS. HE MOVED ONLY WHEN HE WAS SURE.



NOW HE HAD TO PROCLAIM
HIMSELF THE KING.



BUT FARID HAD NO ROYAL BLOOD IN HIM—

IN ISLAMIC LAW TO ASSUME SOVEREIGNTY, THE NEW KING MUST HAVE KHUTBA* READ IN HIS NAME IN ALL THE MOSQUES, SIR.

LET IT BE DONE AND LET THERE BE FESTIVITIES FOR SEVEN DAYS.

IN DECEMBER 1539 A.D. SHER KHAN ASCENDED THE THRONE OF BENGAL.

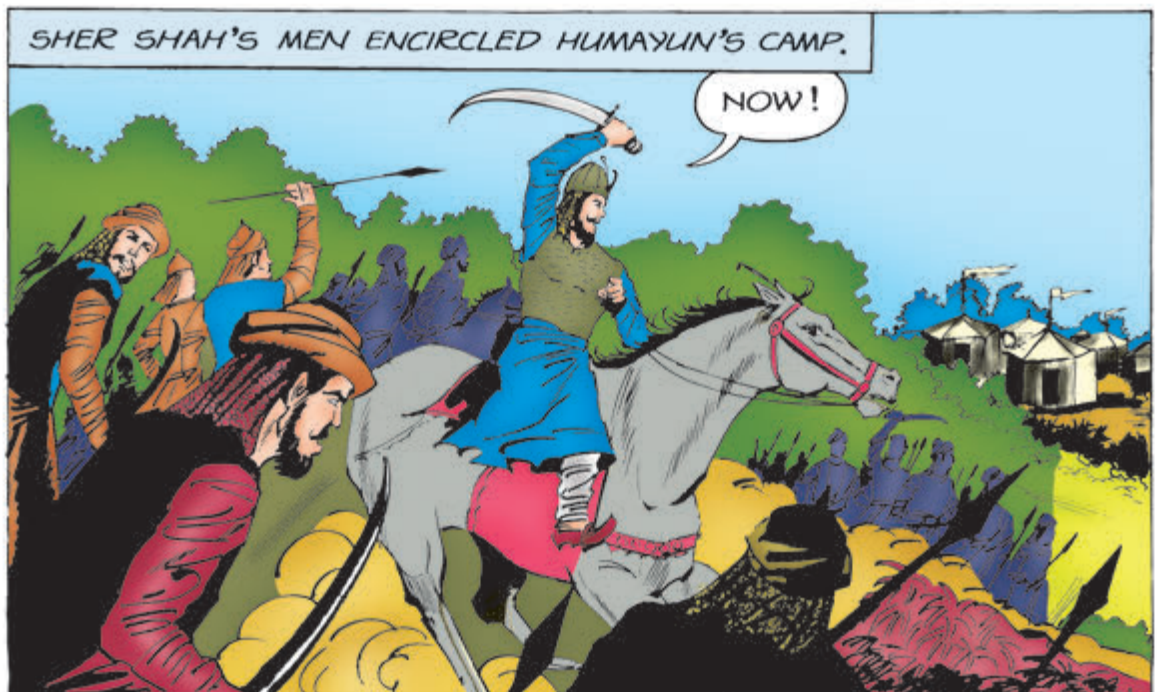
THE KING DESIRES TO BE KNOWN AS SHER SHAH. LET KHUTBA BE NOW READ IN THIS NAME. LONG LIVE KING SHER SHAH.

AMEN.

* SPECIAL PRAYERS.

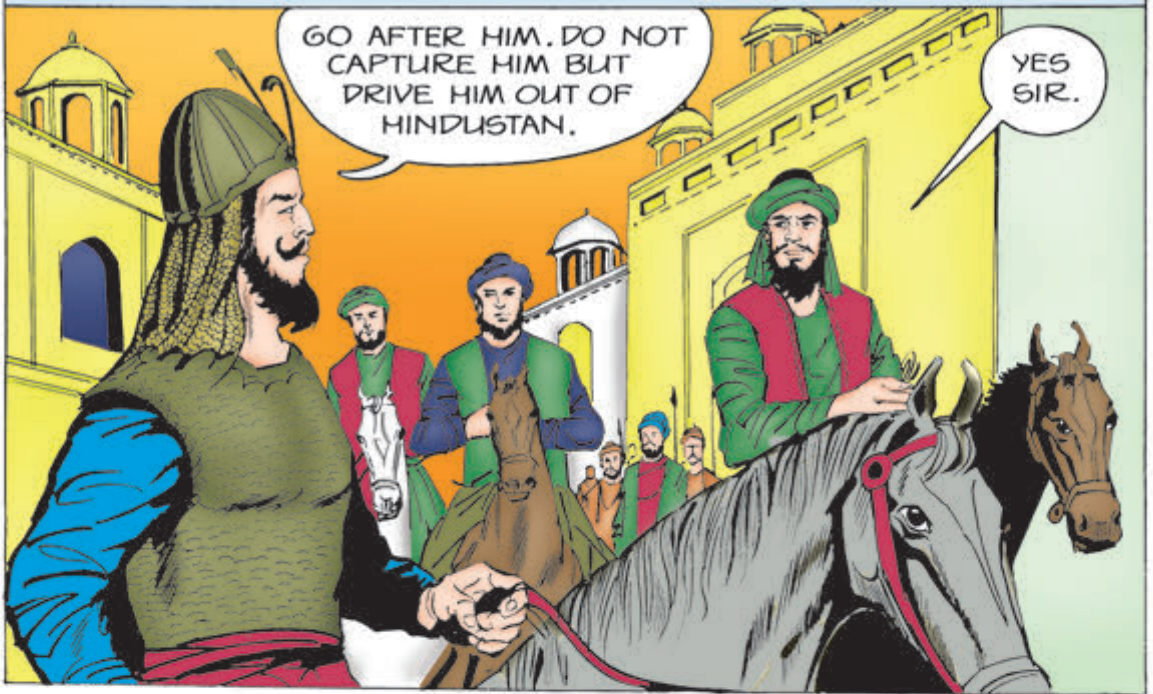
KING SHER SHAH'S AMBITION WAS TO RULE OVER HINDUSTAN. AS LONG AS HUMAYUN WAS STILL THERE, HE HAD LITTLE CHANCE. SO A YEAR LATER, IN 1540 SHER SHAH'S ARMY PITCHED ITS TENTS OPPOSITE THE MUGHAL ARMY'S CAMP ON THE BANKS OF THE GANGES.







WHEN SHER SHAH REACHED AGRA, HUMAYUN FLED TO LAHORE.



WHEN HUMAYUN AND HIS MEN WERE DRIVEN OUT OF HINDUSTAN, SHER SHAH'S SUCCESS WAS COMPLETE.

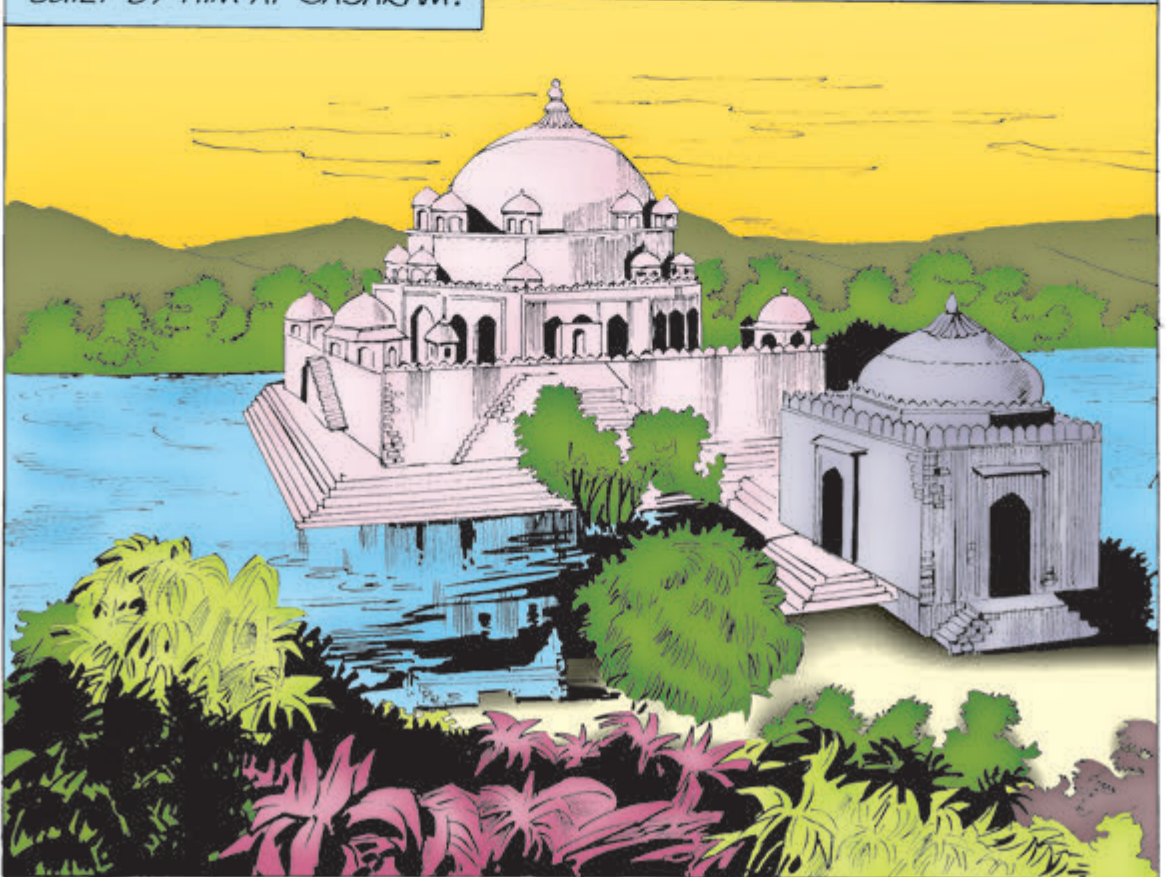




ANOTHER OF HIS ACHIEVEMENTS WAS THE GRAND TRUNK ROAD, WHICH HELPED THE MOVEMENT OF GOODS IN PEACETIME AND OF TROOPS IN TIMES OF WAR.



THIS GREAT REFORMIST KING, SHER SHAH, RULED GLORIOUSLY FOR MORE THAN 5 YEARS: HIS REMAINS LIE IN A MAUSOLEUM BUILT BY HIM AT SASARAM.



WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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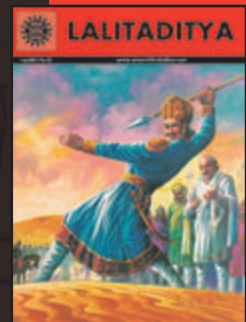
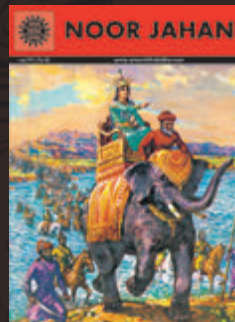
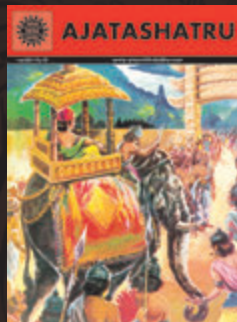


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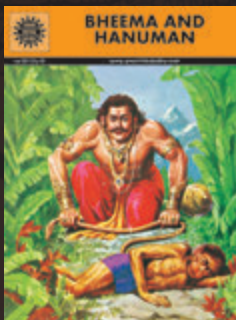
SHER SHAH

He was not from a royal family but his vision and ambition set him far above the ordinary. Farid, who was later known as Sher Shah, was the son of an Afghan estate owner of Sasaram. Discriminated against by his stepmother he sought refuge with the governor of Jaunpur. From there it was a long and rough ride for the brave young man but he pursued his dream and not only did he become the ruler of Bihar, he also defeated the Mughal forces of Humayun and went on to become the Emperor of Hindustan.

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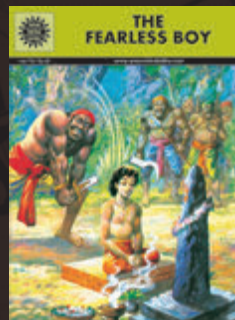
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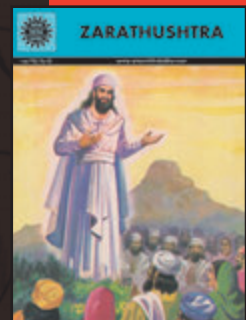
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- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

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